THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

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1.5 MAR 1976

The Honorable Robert Ellsworth
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C.   20301

Dear Bob:

I agree with the conclusion in your letter of 24 February 1976
that intelligence must be prepared to perform all of its functions in
the face of deceptive practices by the Soviet Union and other nations.
The Intelligence Community has made progress in dealing with deception
but there remains, as you suggest, a need for improvement.

The most important preparation we can make to deal with political
and military deception during crises and conflicts is to increase the
awareness of all analysts to such practices and to induce them to take
conscious account of the possibility of deception in framing their judg-
ments.

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In 1975, an Interagency Concealment and Deception Working Group under
the auspices of the National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs
was established to focus the resources of the Intelligence Community on
foreign concealment and deception practices. Its first substantive report
was the Interagency Intelligence Memorandum covering Soviet doctrine in
strategic programs which you cited in your letter to me. The working group

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now has underway a study of Warsaw Pact concealment and deception practices in theater forces. As in the case of the study on strategic programs, the latter project will catalogue activities and analyze the broader doctrinal and organizational aspects of Soviet concealment and deception activity. Both studies are considered in partial response

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Sincerely yours,

George Bush

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Letter to Deputy Secretary of Defense (deceptive practices by the
    Soviet Union and other nations)

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